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Groups of countries in special situations: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Proposed organization of the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 59/244 of 22 December 2004, decided to hold the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[1] in 2006 during its sixty-first session, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, with modalities to be decided upon. In the same resolution it also decided to consider, at its sixtieth session, the modalities for conducting such a comprehensive review.

2. At its sixtieth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/228 of 23 December 2005, decided to convene a high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in New York on 19 and 20 September 2006, to be chaired by the President of the General Assembly.

3. In the same resolution it was decided to convene a three-day preparatory meeting of experts during the sixtieth session, preferably from 4 to 6 September 2006, for the midterm comprehensive global review in order to propose, as appropriate, measures to advance the process of the implementation of the Programme of Action.

4. In addition, the General Assembly emphasized that the midterm comprehensive global review should assess the progress made in the implementation of commitments and provide the occasion to reaffirm the goals and objectives

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agreed upon at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for the further implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2] as well as new challenges and emerging issues.

5. The General Assembly also requested the organs, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to undertake sectoral appraisals in their respective fields of competence on the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special emphasis on areas where implementation has remained insufficient, and to make proposals for new measures, as necessary, as further inputs to the preparation for the midterm comprehensive global review.

6. Recognizing the importance of the contribution of civil society in the preparatory process for the midterm comprehensive global review, the General Assembly also requested the President of the General Assembly to organize one-day informal interactive hearings in New York with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

7. In addition, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, for consideration by Member States, a note on the organizational aspects of the high-level meeting.

8. Proposed organizational arrangements have been formulated on the basis of resolution 60/228, taking into account the report of the Fifth Committee contained in document A/60/624.

II. Participation

A. Member States and Observers

9. Both the high-level meeting and the preparatory meeting of experts will be open to participation by Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, as well as intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

B. Non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector

10. Non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector will be invited to participate in the one-day informal hearings to be organized by the President of the General Assembly. The summary of the informal hearings will be transmitted by the President of the Assembly as an input to the high-level meeting. Accreditation will be open to all non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and all non-governmental organizations and business sector entities accredited to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

III. Organizational arrangements

A. Dates and venue

11. The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/228, decided to hold the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in New York on Tuesday and Wednesday, 19 and 20 September 2006, days which coincide with the beginning of the general debate on 19 September 2006. In the statements to the Second and Fifth Committees[3] on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1, it was proposed that arrangements would have to be made to avoid such an overlap with the general debate. In view of this, the President of the General Assembly may consider holding informal consultations with Member States on alternative arrangements to be decided by the Assembly.

12. In addition, in view of the United Nations holiday on 4 September 2006, the three-day preparatory meeting of experts will be organized in New York from 5 to 7 September instead of from 4 to 6 September 2006.

13. The one-day informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector on the theme "Forging partnership with civil society and the private sector for poverty reduction in least developed countries" will be organized by the President of the General Assembly on Thursday, 22 June 2006 in New York. All scheduled meetings will be announced in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

B. Overall theme

14. The proposed theme of the midterm comprehensive global review is: "Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: Redeeming the commitments".

C. Preparatory meeting of experts

15. The three-day preparatory meeting of experts will be opened on the morning of Tuesday, 5 September 2006, by the Chair appointed by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States. At that meeting, the agenda and the programme of work will be adopted and three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur elected. In addition, three working groups will be established, each chaired by a Vice-Chair, to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action under seven commitments:

1. Fostering a people-centred policy framework
2. Good governance at national and international levels
3. Building human and institutional capacities
4. Building productive capacities to make globalization work for least developed countries
5. Enhancing the role of trade in development

6. Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment

7. Mobilizing financial resources for the arrangements for further implementation, monitoring, coordination and follow-up of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the Decade.

16. Working Group I will focus on commitments 1 to 3; Working Group II will focus on the review of the implementation of commitments 4 to 7; and Working Group III will consider the arrangements for its further implementation, monitoring, coordination and follow-up. The working groups will submit their reports as well as their proposals for the draft outcome document of the high-level meeting to the Chair. All proposals will be consolidated in a single document, which will be adopted and transmitted, through the Chair, as a draft outcome document for consideration and adoption by the high-level meeting (for the proposed organization of work of the preparatory meeting of experts, see annex I).

D. High-level meeting

17. The high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action will be held for two days (for the proposed programme of work of the high-level meeting, see annex II).

18. On the first day, the General Assembly will hold two plenary meetings. The plenary meeting in the morning will commence with an introductory statement by the President of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General will then be invited to make a statement. Statements by Member States and observers will follow.

19. The list of speakers will be established on the first-come, first-served basis. The principle of precedence will be strictly applied to accord priority to high-level participation.

20. On the second day, statements by Member States and observers will continue and the meeting will conclude with the adoption of the outcome document and a statement by the President of the General Assembly.

21. Statements during the plenary meetings will be limited to five minutes, although speakers will be allowed to distribute more extensive printed texts.

IV. Documentation

A. Pre-session documentation

22. Pre-session documentation for the high-level meeting will include:

- Report of the Secretary-General for the midterm comprehensive global review on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
- Summary of hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector
- Report of the preparatory meeting of experts held from 5 to 7 September 2006 at United Nations Headquarters in New York

- Draft outcome document of the high-level meeting
- Other documentation requested by the Member States.

B. Post-session documentation

23. Post-session documentation will include:

- Outcome document of the high-level meeting
- Verbatim records of the high-level meeting.

C. Inputs from all relevant stakeholders

24. Inputs received from all relevant stakeholders, including the national reports of the least developed countries, the outcomes of the regional reviews in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Western Asia (Yemen) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Haiti), and sectoral reviews by the United Nations system and international organizations will be posted on the website of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (see www.un.org/ohrlls).

V. Special events

25. A series of special events, including round tables, briefings and panel discussions on issues/areas related to the implementation of the Programme of Action will be organized by Member States, entities of the United Nations system and multilateral organizations and other relevant stakeholders. The calendar of those events will also be made available on the website of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

VI. Public information

26. The General Assembly, in paragraph 19 of its resolution 60/228, requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations, including the Department of Public Information, to take necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other relevant initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the midterm comprehensive global review.

27. A special information kit will be prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. In addition, various public information activities, in collaboration with organizations and bodies of the United Nations, will be organized in the coming months as part of the preparatory process for the midterm comprehensive global review. All high-level meeting documents, as well as press releases on its plenary meetings will be available at the documents counter in the media area. They will also be made available electronically at the website of the Office of the High Representative.

28. The plenary meetings and press conferences will be broadcast live and will also be available on the United Nations website, in addition to which a programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

Notes

[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

[2] Ibid., chap. I.

[3] A/C.2/60/L.52 and A/C.5/60/24.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work of the preparatory meeting of experts for the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

United Nations Headquarters, New York
Tuesday, 5 September 2006

Plenary meeting

10-11 a.m. Item 1:
Opening of the meeting

Item 2:
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Item 3:
Election of the officers

Item 4:
Midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Working Groups

11 a.m.-1 p.m. **Working Group I**
Commitment 1: Fostering a people-centred policy framework
Commitment 2: Good governance at national and international levels
Commitment 3: Building human and institutional capacities

Working Group II
Commitment 4: Building productive capacities to make globalization work for least developed countries
Commitment 5: Enhancing the role of trade in development
Commitment 6: Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment
Commitment 7: Mobilizing financial resources

3-6 p.m. **Working Groups I and II** (*continued*)

Wednesday, 6 September 2006

Working Groups

10 a.m.-1 p.m. **Working Groups I and II** (*continued*)

3-6 p.m. **Working Group II** (*continued*)

Working Group III (arrangements for further implementation, monitoring, coordination and follow-up)

Thursday, 7 September 2006

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	**Working Group III** (*continued*) Combined meeting of Working Groups (*if needed*)
3-5.45 p.m.	Item 5: Consideration of the draft outcome document of the high-level meeting
5.45-6 p.m.	Item 6: Adoption of the draft outcome document
	Item 7: Other business
	Item 8: Closing of the preparatory meeting of experts

Annex II

Proposed programme of work for the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

United Nations Headquarters, New York
Tuesday, 19 September 2006

Plenary meeting

10-10.30 a.m.	Opening of the high-level meeting by the President of the General Assembly
	Statement by the Secretary-General
	Organizational matters
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Statements by Member States and observers

Plenary meeting

3-6 p.m.	Statements by Member States and observers

Wednesday, 20 September 2006

Plenary meeting

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Statements by Member States and observers

Plenary meeting

3-5.30 p.m.	Statements by Member States and observers
5.30-6 p.m.	Adoption of the draft outcome document
	Concluding statement by the President of the General Assembly